



Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien

Canada

---

# *News Release ~ Communiqué*

---

## **The Martello Towers commemorated**

QUEBEC CITY, JUNE 9, 1995 - Outremont M.P. Martin Cauchon, on behalf of the Honourable Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, today unveiled a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque commemorating the architectural and historical significance of the Quebec City Martello Towers. The ceremony took place in the offices of the National Battlefields Commission.

The Martello Towers played an essential role in the British fortifications strategy and the defence of the Empire's colonies. Between 1808 and 1812, four Martello Towers were built on the heights of Abraham under the direction of Governor James Craig. The Martello Towers' main purpose was to delay the advance of the enemy and prevent the installation of artillery batteries close to the ramparts. Three Martello Towers still remain in Quebec City: one of the four towers was demolished in 1904 in order to allow for the expansion of the old Jeffrey Hale Hospital.

To highlight these elements of our architectural heritage, which are a legacy of the British presence in Quebec City, the National Battlefields Commission presents, in Tower No 1, an exhibition on the Martello Towers and on military engineering of the 1800-1832 era. This permanent exhibition is open to visitors throughout the summer season.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, advises the Minister of Canadian Heritage concerning the commemoration of people, events or places of national significance in Canadian History.

### **Information:**

Michel de Courval  
Canadian Heritage  
Parks Canada  
1-800-463-6766  
(418) 648-7097

Neil Wilson  
Press Secretary  
Minister's Office  
(819) 997-7788

---

